

Paths to Accountability in Colorado

Victims Rights Act - Complaint

Victims of certain crimes have special additional rights afforded to them under the Colorado Constitution. *This one of the most violated and/or not used / misunderstood protections for victims that aims to assist many in finding help in situations where they did not previously know where to turn.* By law, all of the listed crimes below, are included in these protections.

Murder; • Manslaughter; • Criminally negligent homicide and vehicular homicide; • Assault; • Vehicular assault • Menacing; • Kidnapping; • Sexual assault; • Incest and aggravated incest; • Child abuse; • Sexual exploitation of children; • Crimes involving child prostitution; • Crimes against at-risk adults and at-risk juveniles; • Indecent exposure; • Violation of a criminal protection order issued against a person charged with domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking; • Robbery—aggravated, aggravated of a controlled substance; • Crimes for which the underlying foundation has been determined to be domestic violence; • Careless driving that results in the death of another person; • Failure to stop at the scene of an accident that results in the death or serious bodily injury of another person; • Stalking; • Human trafficking; • First degree burglary • Second degree burglary of a dwelling; • First degree arson • Invasion of privacy • Invasion of privacy for sexual gratification; • A Bias motivated crime; • Harassment that is bias motivated; • Retaliation against a victim or witness; • Tampering with a victim or witness; • Intimidation and aggravated intimidation of a victim or witness; • Retaliation against a judge, prosecutor, elected official or juror; • Posting a private image for harassment or pecuniary gain; and • Any criminal attempt, conspiracy, criminal solicitation, or accessory involving any of the crimes specified above.

Speak with someone that can assist with questions and the filling out of the form. VRA - You can contact the *Office for Victims Programs at the Division of Criminal Justice at 303-239-5719 or toll free at 1-888-282-1080* and ask for assistance with your rights as a crime victim.

Brochure Outlining the Act

is here: <https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/dcj/DCJ%20External%20Website/OVP/Colorado%20Crime%20Victim%20Rights.pdf>

File complaint here: <https://dcj.colorado.gov/dcj-offices/victims-programs/crime-victim-rights-act-vra>

DA/Attorney Complaints

DA and Attorney complaints are taken by the Colorado Supreme Court - *Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel* aka OARC

The complaint form is online and takes approx. 20 mins to fill out. Once submitted a lawyer from the OARC will call to question the complainant and they will make a decision if the complaint falls into their purview, usually within 48hrs.

Information to review prior to filing a complaint on a DA/Lawyer complaint:

https://coloradosupremecourt.com/Complaints/File_ComplaintAgainstAtty.asp

File complaint here:

here: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/ColoradoSupremeCourtOfficeOfAttorneyRegulationCounsel/RequestForInvestigationOfLawyerChoiceOfForm>

Complaints on Judges

Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline handles all complaints on Judges in the state of Colorado. While the Canons guide a judge's professional conduct in the courtroom and, in certain instances, outside the courtroom, applicable law controls a judge's decisions on matters that are presented to the court for resolution. Disputes about a judge's rulings remain under the jurisdiction of the trial and appellate courts.

The Commission has jurisdiction over the conduct of Judges of County and District Courts, Judges of the Court of Appeals, and Justices of the Supreme Court. It has no jurisdiction regarding the conduct of magistrates, court staff, lawyers, law enforcement officers, the Department of Corrections, municipal judges, administrative law judges, or the federal judiciary. The commission has the authority to investigate any of the following acts:

- willful misconduct by a judge, including misconduct which, although not related to judicial duties, brings the judicial office into disrepute or is prejudicial to the administration of justice;
- willful or persistent failure of a judge to perform judicial duties, including the incompetent performance of judicial duties; intemperance, including extreme or immoderate personal conduct, recurring loss of temper or control, abuse of alcohol, or the use of illegal narcotics or dangerous drugs; any conduct on the part of a judge that constitutes a violation of the Colorado Code of Judicial Conduct; or a disability, which is or is likely to become permanent, that interferes with the performance of judicial duties.

Information on the Judge complaint process can be found here: <https://coloradojudicialdiscipline.com/>

To get access to the Judge complaint form one must first request a complaint form. The request for a complaint form can be found here:

<https://coloradojudicialdiscipline.com/PDF/CJD%20request%20for%20investigation.pdf>

Colorado Attorney General

CO Attorney General Complaint on any Governmental Authority which seems to show a continuous pattern or practice with deprives people of the rights. Every complaint we receive gives insights into problems that people are experiencing in Colorado and helps identify trends and prioritize problems. Information from the public is vital in helping us document those trends and, when appropriate, pursue investigations and file lawsuits on behalf of the public. *The result: better outcomes for consumers, businesses, and a better marketplace for Coloradans.*

Pattern or Practice Report Form can be found here:

https://coag.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9AmM09jK0GcwetT